

Khamenei pays homage to Khomeini

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei attended a ceremony at the grave of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Monday to mark the anniversary of his 1979 return from exile. The event was part of a 10-day observance marking the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile in Iraq and France on Feb. 1, 1979, to a tumultuous public welcome. Fifteen days earlier, the Iranian ruler, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, had left his country, never to return. Ayatollah Khomeini died on June 3, 1989. President Hashemi Rafsanjani broadcast an anniversary message on Tehran Radio, saying Ayatollah Khomeini's return had changed "everything from negative to positive and from misery to prosperity." He said that the Islamic revolution had given power to the people "to decide their own fate," according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency. Mr. Rafsanjani said it was also important for stopping the creep of Western culture, which threatened to corrupt Iranian youths. On Sunday, Mr. Rafsanjani urged the West to make goodwill gestures towards Iran if it wants to improve relations.



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German spied for Iraq—Iran

TEHRAN (R) — A Tehran newspaper said Monday a German engineer sentenced to death by an Iranian court had spied for Iraq with the knowledge and approval of German diplomats. Salam newspaper said Helmut Szimkus was recruited by an Iraqi intelligence officer in 1985-86 and the information he sent to Iraq in return for sum of money helped the Iraqi army in its air and missile attacks during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. The report also alleged that Mr. Szimkus met a Saudi diplomat and a United Arab Emirates (UAE) diplomat in Tehran before leaving Iran at the end of the first of two "spying" stints. German, Saudi and UAE diplomats were not immediately available to comment on the report, which Salam said was researched by its reporters.

Leftist Israeli magazine is folding

TEL AVIV (AP) — New Outlook, the leftist-Zionist magazine that philosopher Martin Buber helped found to promote peace between Jews and Arabs, is shutting down after 35 years. "We simply ran out of money," editor Chaim Shur told the Associated Press Monday. "The economic situation reduced our funds." New Outlook relied almost entirely on funds raised among sympathetic readers overseas and maintained advisory boards in the United States and Britain.

The English-language bimonthly, whose circulation never reached more than 5,000, had an impact beyond its size. Opinion makers used the magazine as a forum for their views on the peace process.

OIC consulting over summit on Bosnia

JEDDAH (AP) — A pan-Islamic summit over the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is under consideration after the failure of the Geneva peace talks among the combatants, officials of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) said Monday. They said Hamid Al Gabid, secretary-general of the 51-member organisation, and the OIC's current chairman, President Abdou Diop of Senegal, were discussing whether to convene an extraordinary summit session. The OIC held two emergency meetings of Islamic foreign ministers last June in Turkey and two months ago in Saudi Arabia. In January, there was an Islamic mini-summit in Dakar, Senegal, which was attended by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

Syria pledges military support for Lebanon

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad Monday pledged military support to the Lebanese army to bolster security and sectarian reconciliation, sources close to Lebanese army commander General Emile Lahoud said. There was no word whether Gen. Lahoud, who arrived in Damascus Sunday for two days of talks with Syrian leaders, discussed theorny question of the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Beirut and other Lebanese cities to the eastern Bekaa Valley. But Gen. Lahoud's visit came amid preparations for the first meeting of the two countries' Supreme Council, formed under a May 22, 1991, treaty of brotherhood and cooperation. No date has yet been set for the two-day meeting, which will be chaired by Mr. Assad and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi. Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Sabri will visit Beirut soon for consultations on the meeting. Syrian sources reported.

Arafat heads for Iraq after talks with King PLO leader said carrying 'Arab message' for Saddam Hussein

By Mariana M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat headed for Baghdad Monday for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein after brief meeting and consulting with His Majesty King Hussein at the residence of the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

After the informal 90-minute meeting with Mr. Arafat, King Hussein paid tribute to the close ties which he and the Palestinian leader enjoy. "This is another opportunity to meet and discuss current issues and problems. It has been a good chance to catch up on what we have missed since we last met," King Hussein told reporters after the meeting.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki as well as head of PLO Political Department Farouk Khadouni, PLO Executive Committee members Abdullah Hourani and Yaser Amer and Palestinian Ambassador Tayeb Abdul Rahim attended the meeting.

Mr. Arafat told the press that King Hussein was the man to

bring about Arab reconciliation. He said Monday's talks here centred on the fate of Palestinian expellees stranded in South Lebanon, international legitimacy, possible U.N. sanctions on Israel and the continuation of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mr. Arafat said nothing about the purpose of his 48-hour visit to Baghdad. But senior Palestinian officials confirmed that Mr. Arafat was expected to hold talks with the Iraqi leadership on issues concerning regional stability, including Iraq's relations with the West and the future of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. Arafat was the first Arab leader to meet with the Iraqi president since a U.S.-led coalition launched a month-long war against Iraq in January 1991 to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Mr. Arafat said to be carrying a message to President Saddam from "concerned Arab parties," according to a high-ranking Palestinian official who asked not to be named.

"Abu Ammar is carrying some suggestions — some advice — to the Iraqi leadership on how to

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proceed with the new U.S. administration and the U.N." said the official.

Mr. Arafat's visit to Baghdad precedes a visit to the region by the newly-appointed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. According to sources close to the U.S. government, it is unlikely that Mr. Christopher will visit the region before the crisis sparked by Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of over 400 Palestinians is settled. "It is unlikely that there will be a Christopher visit before the crisis has been settled," said a spokesman at the U.S. embassy to the Jordan Times Monday.

The Clinton administration has given mixed signals about its position vis-a-vis Iraq, but the Iraqi leadership as well as that of several other Arab states believe that Mr. Clinton will approach Iraq on the basis of "U.S. strategic interests."

Statements made to the U.S. press by Mr. Clinton indicate that this is likely to be the case. Mr. Clinton was quoted by the New York Times as saying that he was not "obsessed with the man (Saddam Hussein)" and that "if he wants a different relationship

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His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat greet each other Monday at the residence of the Palestinian ambassador in Jordan (AFP photo)

Christopher optimistic on crisis

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday he was optimistic that the standoff between Israel and some 400 Palestinian evictees would soon be resolved.

Speaking to reporters shortly before he was to have a lunch meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, Mr. Christopher said that over the last several days the United States and Israel "have been engaged in extensive conversations on the deportation issue."

Both President Bill Clinton and I feel that these discussions have been positive and productive," he said. "We're quite optimistic that they will open the way to a resolution of this issue and enable us to put this issue behind us," he added.

Mr. Christopher was to discuss the expulsion controversy as well as the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the internation-

al relief effort in Somalia in his first meeting with Dr. Ghali since he became secretary of state.

Israel expelled the Palestinians on Dec. 17 to southern Lebanon, accusing them of links with Islamic extremist organisations responsible for the deaths of several Israeli servicemen.

It has so far refused to implement a Dec. 18 Security Council resolution calling for their immediate return, prompting Arab countries to call for the imposition of sanctions against Israel.

The Israeli cabinet convened a special meeting Monday amid increasing international pressure over the expulsions.

The radio said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called the meeting to update ministers on the crisis.

Israel Radio said the cabinet was discussing a compromise with the United States to end the impasse: Some evictees would return now, others would go to a third country.

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U.S. to list Hamas in 'terrorism' report

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. State Department will this year for the first time officially label the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas organisation as a "terrorist" group in its annual terrorism report.

"Hamas does commit terrorism and we'll be talking about that in our next report that comes out in April," said a State department official, who asked not to be identified.

The group, which operates in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, is at the centre of a diplomatic row that threatens the Middle East peace process following Israel's expulsion last month of 415 suspected members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, another hardline group.

In Brussels, Israel called for closer cooperation with the European Community (EC) Monday, but was likely to see its request hurt by the expulsions.

"I can well imagine that (the EC nations) expect the problem to be resolved rapidly, so that it does not overshadow our relations," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said.

Mr. Peres was seeking to improve economic relations and open the way for the eventual membership of Israel in the European Economic Area, the plan to set up a single market between

(Continued on page 3)

Snow and rain add to expellees' plight

MAR AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel huddled around gas heaters inside their tents Monday as a new winter snowstorm lashed their camp in southern Lebanon.

It was the fifth storm to hit since the men were expelled by Israel on Dec. 17.

"Cold is piercing our bones. Life is getting more and more miserable here," said the expellees' spokesman, Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi. "When is the Security Council going to really do something about its resolution?"

The U.N. Security Council on Dec. 18 passed Resolution 799 condemning the expulsions and demanding that Israel repatriate the men.

The 15-nation body is expected to convene this week to consider action against Israel for refusing

to comply. The United States has

sought to postpone the debate, fearing it may be forced into a veto to defend its ally from sanctions.

"We appeal to the Security Council to apply sanctions against Israel and urge the United States not to veto the sanctions," Dr. Rantisi told reporters.

The expellees have insisted that they be allowed back as a group without conditions. Dr. Rantisi said that talk in Israel of a possible compromise that would allow some of the men back immediately and reduce the length of deportation for others was unacceptable.

"I want (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin and (U.S. President Bill) Clinton to rest assured we will never accept anything other than the implementation of

(Continued on page 3)

Hamdoun detects 'signals' of change coming from Washington

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's U.N. ambassador says he has detected signals from Washington that may indicate President Bill Clinton is willing to open a dialogue.

But the ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, cautioned against assuming prematurely the new U.S. administration would ease military tensions with Baghdad.

"There are some signals from the new administration that contain some objectivity. They say the new administration is turning to dialogue to avoid war," Mr. Hamdoun was quoted as saying on Monday by the official media.

He did not specify what the signals were, and added: "It is too early to assume that a change is in the offing. One has to wait for at least an initial move."

Mr. Hamdoun's remarks were his first on the matter since returning from New York last week for consultations after Iraq's goodwill gestures to the man who

replaced its arch-enemy George Bush.

Iraq's declaration of a ceasefire before Mr. Clinton's inauguration on Jan. 20 and offer of talks have so far been received coolly by Washington.

The United States, which under Mr. Bush spearheaded the Gulf war which drove Iraq out of Kuwait, was indicated it wants to see real changes in Baghdad before any change in U.S. policy.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, keen to break the grip of U.S.-backed, U.N. trade sanctions, has made clear he wants a new chapter in relations with Washington and the world body.

Baghdad diplomats said Washington appeared to be waiting for Iraq to make specific proposals as a sign of sincerity.

"It's not enough to say they want to talk — they will have to prove it to the Americans," said one European envoy.

The United States and its British

and French allies launched new raids on Iraq last month after accusations that it was flouting U.N. ceasefire terms.

Mr. Hamdoun told Iraqi Television Sunday Baghdad has fulfilled 90 per cent of its obligations to U.N. resolutions but implementing the remainder requires time.

The Iraqi government Monday played down a threatened row with the special U.N. commission supervising its disarmament under Gulf war ceasefire terms.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said Iraq had "clarified" its attitude on a list of nuclear suppliers which U.N. officials say are a key stumbling block to full compliance.

He said Baghdad had provided nuclear and ballistic missile inspectors recently in Iraq with

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians to launch first party

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Palestinians plan to launch a moderate political party in the occupied territories this month which they hope will become the first group in decades to operate there openly and legally.

One of the organisers told Reuters Monday the Palestinian Democratic Federation would group several Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions and independent Palestinians and would back Middle East peace talks.

The move follows Israel's decision last month to legalise contacts with the PLO.

"We will announce the federation's official formation later this month," said Azmi Al Shu'abi, a senior member of the Tunis-based Yasser Abed Rabbo faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

"It will be the first political party in the occupied areas which

moves from being an underground one to one that will operate in the open," Mr. Shu'abi said in an interview.

"Our preparations have already started and we have formed committees throughout the area."

Some members come from Mr.

Abed Rabbo's faction, which broke in mid-1991 from the Damascus-based DFLP group led by Nayef Hawatmeh who opposes the terms of the peace process.

Others come from the Palestine Popular Struggle Front of Samir Ghoshe and some are former members of the Palestine Communist Party.

The charter describes the party as a pragmatic, nationalist group open to Palestinians over 16 years of age in the West Bank and Gaza Strip regardless of their social standing.

It will seek to consolidate national unity and help achieve a "fair and just solution" of the Arab-Israeli conflict guaranteeing Palestinians the right to self-determination in a future independent state.

It will safeguard the right of return for millions of Palestinian refugees and seek an end to Jewish settlement building in the occupied territories.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Some Cabinet members and government observers had expected the reshuffle to come as early as the end of January, basing their expectations on predictions that Parliament's term would be extended and that high-level change in the top echelons of the bureaucracy was long over due.

The prime minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, formed his government in November 1991 with a message of continuity in Cabinet posts, and apparently

based on this he kept his original team without any change since then. But the government has come under increasing criticism for its performance, with many people, including Cabinet members themselves, saying that a reshuffle was needed to reassert leadership, improve team work and increase efficiency and productivity of various departments.

"The expectation (for a reshuffle) is off for now," said a well-informed source. "My hunch is that the reshuffle will now take place in March or April, where a more technocratic government can be formed to prepare for the elections," he said.

The Election Law requires senior government officials to resign their posts at least 65 days before the elections date if they want to run. Moving the date of the reshuffle forward for two months, however, will also mean that Sharif Zeid's government will continue to hear criticism from the different political circles and tolerate "inefficiency" from and "friction" among some of its members.

The Cabinet seems to be divided into different factions and groups, as well as strong-minded individuals, who operate on personal considerations rather than on the basis of common good," a well-informed source said. "Besides a Cabinet member can be in

(Continued on page 5)

Afghan rivals fight despite peace call

KABUL (R) — The Afghan government and its radical opponents bombed and shelled each other's positions around Kabul Sunday, despite an agreement reached by six Mujahedeen groups that called for a ceasefire.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government said it would continue its 13-day-old offensive against the Hezb-e-Islami Party of hardline Mujahedeen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

The Hezb said the government had been defeated and appealed to Kabul citizens to force it to remove heavy artillery from the capital, to spare civilians from being hurt in counter-attacks.

Both sides claimed victories in the day's battles and, in public statements, appeared to be taking a harder line. In the eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad, six Mujahedeen groups including the Hezb agreed on a peace formula calling for a ceasefire and elections in less than a year. Mujahedeen sources in neighbouring Pakistan said.

They said Pakistani and Saudi ambassadors had brokered the formula, which called for elections within a year and envisaged the revival of a leadership council

representing nine main Mujahedeen parties.

Mr. Rabbani says the council ceased to exist after the convening of a controversial assembly last month that elected him president for two years and created an interim parliament.

A presidential spokesman in Kabul called the Jalalabad session, where Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami was absent, "just a meeting of a few influential people."

Spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said the Hezb must surrender all heavy weapons to the government as a condition for a ceasefire.

"The Islamic state of Afghanistan is determined to continue the mopping up operations until the last forces of Gulbuddin's terrorist section have been crushed," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The Hezb fired four rockets into Kabul Sunday, killing one person and wounding another, the official Kabul Radio said.

A Defence Ministry source, quoted by Kabul Radio, said the government jets and artillery hit Hezb positions in the baghram areas southwest of Kabul.

The six parties in Jalalabad accepted King Fahd's invitation

to Mujahedeen groups last week to meet in Saudi Arabia to settle their differences. Mujahedeen sources said.

Many people were seen fleeing from western Kabul's Bagh-e-Bala area after heavy overnight fighting in a separate conflict pitting government forces against the Hezb-e-Wahdat Party of the Shiite Muslim minority.

Many patients at Kabul's Karte Se Hospital had been injured by machinegun, rocket or tank fire.

A 14-year-old girl lay in the hospital's intensive care unit her face badly cut by rocket shrapnel Saturday night. "Her mother and three brothers and sisters were all killed, but we have not told her about them," her aunt said at her bedside.

At least 1,700 people have been injured in the current fighting, which has lasted almost two weeks, hospital doctors said.

There is no official estimate of the number of people killed because their bodies were not brought to hospitals, but doctors said the total could be in hundreds.

The six parties in Jalalabad accepted King Fahd's invitation



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar

Demirel avoids blaming Iran for murders

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said Sunday security forces would throw light this week on a series of political murders over the past three years.

He avoided direct answers to questions about alleged Iranian involvement in the killings, but said nothing at a news conference to dispel suspicion that such a connection existed.

"We must be very careful and have very accurate information before attributing any blame to Iran as a state," Mr. Demirel said.

He said Iran and Turkey had very friendly relations and a "very sensitive situation" would arise if the security forces determined that Tehran was implicated in the murders.

"What goal would Iran reach by setting up a murder network in Turkey? I don't credit this," Mr. Demirel said.

He said investigations of the murders were almost complete and security forces would make an announcement by Wednesday.

"I think present information will help us to reach (Ugur) Mumcu's killers," Mr. Demirel said. Mumcu, a left-wing journalist and researcher, was killed last Sunday by a powerful car bomb.

The prime minister said light would also be thrown on the previously unsolved killings of four other prominent figures known for staunchly secular views. Cen Emet, Turan Dursun, Bahriye, Ucok and Muammer Aksay, in the past three years.

Hundreds of thousands of Turks shouted anti-Iranian slogans at marches last week to protest against Mumcu's assassination.

Russian, Pakistani, Chinese and even Israeli channels are in great demand.

"Our TV programmes are dull. Even the children are sick of cartoon shows," said Hussein Al Haddad, his eyes flicking from one screen to another in a store that sells dishes for monthly payments of \$130.

"We want entertainment. We went through enough sorrow during the invasion and the occupation," said Mr. Haddad, a 33-year-old civil servant.

Kuwait's censors routinely cut out love scenes from foreign movies and TV shows shown on the state-run network, sometimes even situations as innocuous as a father affectionately pecking his daughter on the cheek.

In one recent episode of the

U.S. series "America's Funniest People," the censors scissored out a shot of an ape kissing the show's hostess.

Although press censorship was lifted about a year ago, some newspapers and magazines still draw clothes on photographs of women considered immodestly dressed by Islamic standards.

Salah Al Hashem, a lawyer and columnist, is not worried about the effects of uncensored programmes on his family because "it's all in how parents raise their children."

Mr. Hashem bought a dish last year and says he spends hours watching TV every day.

"It's a way of getting around the government's monopoly over information," he said.

Physician Aref Al Nakas said:

"Some news reports about our region have a way of never getting into our newspapers."

The only Kuwaiti who knew about the Iraqi troops massing on the border in August 1990 were the ones who had satellite dishes."

In one recent episode of the



A U.S. soldier carries out a house-to-house search in Afgoi, 30 kilometres outside Mogadishu (AFP photo)

refugee camps are emptying. But no recent head counts have been taken.

While some refugees head to their villages to start a new life, Baidoa still remains a magnet for the sick and hungry.

Habiba Mohammad Abdul Rahman, 35, who watched five of her children die of starvation, arrived a few days ago after a 60-kilometres trek

through the bush with her three surviving children. They were so emaciated they could barely sit up.

"We lost all our camels, cattle and goats and we cannot cultivate our farm — it is absolutely horrible," she said.

"There are still some people like me remaining there. Some are dying, and some are walking here."

The fact that Israel and America are officially talking about Israel's bombs should end the

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghalib Zawadeh 736011
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Response 631341
Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896300
Public Security Department 630321

Hotline Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amanat Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 000230

Al-Aqsa 986632
Dr. Wael Abu Zaid 986632

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813811/02

Khalidi Maternity J. Ann 6424116

Jahil Amman Maternity 642362

Malha, J. Ann 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 843584

AI-Mascher Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdali 66612737

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Ahmad Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radios Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53260

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-57200

AMMAN:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 091983323

Zarqa National Hospital 09190560

Ibaa SMA Hospital 091986732

Al-Hikma Modern Hospital 09197090

Other Hospitals (Terminal 2)

AMMAN:

Princess Basma Hospital 02027555

Greek Catholic Hospital 020272275

Ibaa Nafaa Hospital 020247100

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

07:15 Dhaka (RJ)

07:45 Manila, Davao (RJ)

08:00 Data, Bahrain (RJ)

08:35 London (RJ)

09:45 Cairo (RJ)

10:00 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

10:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

10:45 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)

17:45 Dubai (AZ)

01:00 Bucharest (RO)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

21:00 Aden (RJ)

21:15 Larnaca (RJ)

22:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

22:45 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Market Prices

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 500

Banana 640 / 580

Beefs 650 / 550

Cabbage 160 / 100

Carrot 250 / 180

Cauliflower 210 / 160

Cucumbers (large) 150 / 80

Cucumbers (small) 300 / 250

Eggs 320 / 230

Grapes 650 / 550

Lemons 180 / 120

Marrow (large) 270 / 200

Marrow (small) 440 / 300

Mint 300 / 200

Onion (dry) 210 / 150

Onion (green) 240 / 180

Orange 400 / 300

Pepper (hot) 380 / 280

Potato (sweet) 180 / 120

House to discuss call for mandatory voting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wednesday's Lower House of Parliament agenda includes a proposal by 19 deputies calling for an amendment to the Election Law of 1986 which would make voting in general elections mandatory for all eligible citizens, according to an announcement Monday.

The proposal said an amendment to the Election Law should also grant the right to vote to 18-year-old Jordanians.

A proposal submitted by 40 deputies, demanding that Jordan adopt a special law banning the Kingdom from closing its borders with any neighbouring Arab country or imposing a sea, land or air trade embargo on Arab states, will also be discussed Wednesday, according to the announcement.



Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb meets with Cyprus British Forces Commander and the British ambassador to Jordan Monday at Army Headquarters

Abu Taleb meets visiting British commander

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb Monday received at the Jordan Armed Forces General Headquarters the commander of the British Forces in Cyprus, Major General A.F.C. Hunter.

Field Marshal Abu Taleb and the visiting British officer discussed Jordanian-British cooperation and issues of common interest.

Jordan, Britain hold joint exercises in the desert

AMMAN (AP) — Jordanian and British soldiers started joint exercises Monday in the Kingdom's central desert, a senior Jordanian officer said.

The last joint exercise was conducted in November 1992.

The officer, who cannot be identified by name under military rules, said at least 150 British soldiers and 600 Jordanian troops were participating in the "Saffron Sands" exercise near Qatrana, 80 kilometres south of Amman.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein visited Monday the Prime Ministry where he was received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the deputy prime minister, the ministers of state and the secretary general of the Prime Ministry. King Hussein had a meeting with Sharif Zeid to discuss several domestic and foreign issues. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki.

Bataineh meets Al Bashir Hospital heads

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh visited Monday Al Bashir Hospital in Amman and met with the heads of its various departments and sections for talks on possible means of developing the medical services offered to citizens at the hospital. The minister was briefed on the hospital's needs and said the ministry will meet them in accordance with capabilities.

Students display talents in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — A plastic art exhibition opened Monday at the exhibition hall of Irbid municipality. The week-long exhibition, which includes works by students at the fine arts department of Irbid Girls' Community College, depicts natural scenery and national issues.

Irbid reviews past, future projects

IRBID (Petra) — A meeting was held Monday at Irbid governorate to review the achievements in the past and future projects. Irbid Governor Fayed Al Abbadi, who chaired the meeting, called on the concerned authorities in the governorate to intensify their efforts to provide the best services to citizens.

Health centre opens in Petra

PETRA (Petra) — A new health centre was opened Monday in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra by Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh. The centre, which will offer medical services to the local residents of the area, as well as tourists, will be staffed by one doctor and one nurse. Dr. Bataineh said the centre was provided with all the necessary medical equipment and medicines. He said the ministry is always eager to offer medical services to citizens in all parts of Jordan. The ministry, he said, has appointed an orthopaedist and gynaecologist at the nearby Wadi Musa Comprehensive Health Centre. On Monday, Dr. Bataineh attended Arbor Day celebrations at Wadi Musa, where 1,000 forest tree saplings were planted by citizens.

Ramtha health officials meet on plans

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Ramtha Health Department held a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of its director Atallah Al Doujan and discussed its achievements and educational development plans. Mr. Doujan stressed at the importance of well-prepared educational plans and the need to follow-up on their implementation.

Cold, wet weather to stay

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cold, rainy and snowy weather currently affecting the Kingdom is likely to continue until Thursday in most regions, with rain continuing in the southern parts of Jordan on Friday, according to a statement to the Department of Meteorology Monday.

The statement said a depression centered over Cyprus is affecting areas east of the Mediterranean region, bringing heavy rain and snow to high mountainous areas.

Snow was expected early Tuesday morning in regions rising 1,000 metres above sea level, but rain was expected to affect most other areas of Jordan, the statement said.

The statement said a colder air mass was expected to affect Jordan Tuesday evening, causing snow fall in regions rising 700 metres above sea level, and a further drop in temperatures.

According to the department, the snow storm will be accompanied by gale-force winds especially in the mountainous regions of the country, while temperatures will be around 0°C.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets Monday with FAFO officials from Norway to discuss a new concept of security (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan calls for new concept of security

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday emphasized the need to bring about a change in the concept of security, away from its limited traditional view based on armament, and towards a comprehensive view that embodies humanitarian, economic, environmental and health dimensions.

The Prince addressed a visiting four-member team representing FAFO, a research centre for applied science based in Norway.

He told the group, at a meeting at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), that FAFO's activities contributed towards promoting the cause of world peace.

The FAFO team reviewed a working paper prepared by Prince Hassan on the concept of common security which advocates security not in terms of the military or the absence of war, but rather ensuring economic, environmental, health, humanitarian and cultural security.

Jordanian, U.S. universities to establish postgraduate courses on water studies

By Sawsan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

search and Study Centre (WERSC) at the University of Jordan.

According to WERSC, its goal is to conduct "research on the development and management of water resources, and the protection of the environment from pollution and degradation."

The WSU team will be assisting the centre in developing a curriculum for water resource management.

Professor of soil physics at WSU David Mulla said: "There are very serious pollution problems in Jordan, and the Ministry of Water is very capable of designing strategies for dealing with those problems. However, there are some gaps in knowledge."

The WSU team and WERSC are working together to fill in these gaps.

For instance, one of their projects is to determine the quantities of organic chemicals in some of the waters.

This study is significant because some organic chemicals can be hazardous to the bacteria that

are used in treatment plants.

In addition to this project, Dr. Mulla said there will probably be a "significant amount of research into re-use of treated waste water for irrigation."

Dr. Funk said "we hope to develop other funding" to continue and extend this project.

Funding is especially needed to purchase laboratory chemicals and equipment, in order to enable the laboratories in Jordan to perform more advanced studies and research.

WSU has had a history of cooperation with the University of Jordan.

Dr. Funk describes their work as joint participation and not as assistance.

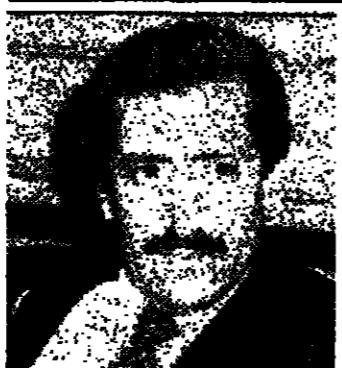
He said: "We learn as much as we present ... You have excellent human resources, you have a very well-educated, very capable faculty."

Dr. Funk concluded by saying that he hopes more conferences and workshops on this topic will be held, in order to better understand each other's problems.

In the near future, Dr. Funk hopes this programme would expand to include bringing WSU students to Jordan for study and research.

In addition to student exchange, this programme offers exchange of scientists from both countries.

The WSU team is working with the Water and Environment Re-



Jordan opens trade fair in Sanaa

SANA'A (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Abdulrahman Ensour opened Monday in Sanaa the second Jordanian Industrial Fair in the presence of Yemeni Supply and Trade Minister Fadi Abdulla-

Dr. Ensour and the Yemeni minister toured the various sections of the fair, which included 100 pavilions displaying products manufactured by more than 30 Jordanian companies.

Featured at the fair are pharmaceutical, engineering, leather, chemical, plastic, construction, agricultural and cosmetic products plus furniture, textiles and clothing.

In a statement to the press, Dr. Ensour said the fair will give many Yemeni citizens the chance to be familiarised with Jordanian commodities which compete in terms of quality with the most renowned international products. It will also give them the chance to be acquainted with the progress and development achieved by the industrial sector in Jordan.

The Yemeni minister commended the quality of the Jordanian products displayed at the fair, saying that this reflects the development witnessed in the industrial sector in the Kingdom.

"The fact that there are more than 100 pavilions is another evidence to the success of Jordan and the wisdom of its leadership and people," Mr. Abdulla said.

"The fair is a source of pride for Jordan and for the Arabs," he added.

Insulin drive launched for diabetics in Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Emergency Health Committee is launching a campaign to help Iraq's 400,000 diabetics get insulin.

According to committee spokesman Mamoud Al Abbadi, 150,000 Iraqi diabetics are in immediate danger because of the lack of insulin in hospitals and health centres.

Addressing a press conference at the Professional Association Complex Sunday, Dr. Abbadi said the shortages resulted from the "unjust sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people for the past two years despite the fact that medical supplies and equipment are exempted. Dr. Abbadi urged the World Health Organisation

(WHO) and human rights societies around the world, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to extend humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people.

The committee has bought quantities of insulin from European markets and plans to send the first shipment to Iraq in the coming week, Dr. Abbadi said.

He said the committee also plans to raise JD 100,000 to purchase insulin, and expressed hope that Jordanian citizens will back this campaign.

Dr. Abbadi said the 400,000 Iraqi diabetics require at least half a million doses of insulin annually.

smuggled to them on mules at night from villages in Lebanese government-held territory.

Dr. Rantissi accused the U.N. and U.S. of double standards in their dealing with Arabs and Israel but said he was confident Washington would not veto unprecedented sanctions against Israel.

He said Washington "would lose all its credibility and its Gulf war allies" if it used its veto at the Security Council.

Snow, rain add to evictees' woes

(Continued from page 1)
Resolution 799," Dr. Rantissi told reporters.

"On this we are firmer than the rocks surrounding us."

Snow fell on the camp at dawn and covered surrounding hills. Driving rain later Monday turned the windswept hillside camp into a muddy quagmire, flooding tents and soaking the expellees.

Despite the worsening weather, the Palestinians managed to receive jackets and vegetables

from the American Red Cross.

Dr. Rantissi said Washington "would lose all its credibility and its Gulf war allies" if it used its veto at the Security Council.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- ★ Medical book exhibition at Al Bashir Hospital.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Nabat at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Ahmed Bani Yassin and Nawaf Mandel at Deir Abu Saeed Girls' Secondary School.

ITALIAN FILM WEEK

- ★ English-subtitled Italian film entitled "Il Coraggio Di Parlare" (The Courage to Speak) at the Royal Culture Centre at 8 p.m.

King gives JPA land for new site

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At the instructions of His Majesty King Hussein, the Ministry of Youth announced the assignment of a two-dunum plot of land to the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

The announcement was made by JPA President Suleiman Qudah who, accompanied by the JPA board, called on Minister of Youth Saleh Isheihel Monday to express the association's appreciation to the King and government for the gift.

Mr. Qudah told the Jordan Times that the JPA board will begin planning for the construction of a permanent headquarters for the association and a press club on the plot, located near the Martyrs Monument.



Suleiman Al Qudah

has repeatedly expressed his desire to see this project implemented.

A permanent headquarters for the press will enable the JPA to host meetings with individuals from Jordan and abroad, and serve as an effective forum for different political activities in support of Arab causes, Mr. Qudah said.

He said endeavours are already underway to raise the required sums to finance this important project.

ICARDA assesses regional projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's cooperation with the Aleppo-based International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) was reviewed here Monday by Agriculture Minister Fayed Khasawneh and a seven member ICARDA team.

ICARDA administers the project and provides the necessary technical know-how.

Last September ICARDA held a meeting in Amman with delegations from the region, including Cyprus and Turkey, to assess the Mashreq project in the three Arab states.

Regional Coordinator for ICARDA Nasri Haddad told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ICARDA team is currently touring the region to conduct an assessment of its operations and to look into possibilities of increasing its activities.

One of ICARDA's major activities is the Mashreq project, an agricultural venture involving Jordan, Iraq, Syria and ICARDA, and financed by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

According to Jihad Karadsh, head of the project in Jordan, the Mashreq scheme aims to increase the country's production of barley, forage and sheep in the critical zones which receive a maximum of only 300 millimetres of rainfall annually.

He said the project focuses on building dams, particularly in the Madaba area, to increase surface and underground water sources.

In addition, Mr. Omari said, the governorate plans to extend new water networks for industrial and domestic use, replace the old networks, connect all the governorate's areas with the sewerage network, and establish new waste water treatment plants.

He said the governorate implemented several projects last year, which included properly equipping the Al Walsh and Heidan wells and laying 3.5 kilometres of water pipes at a cost of JD 2,030,000, and linking the Al Walsh well with the southern Amman areas with 42 kilometres of water pipes at a cost of JD 200,000.

The governorate also spent JD 150,000 on the Abu Nuseir-Al Jubeiba-Yajouz water pipeline. JD 51,000 on the Wasfi Tell Street pipeline and JD 40,000 on the Al Jubeiba sewerage network, the governor said.

He said in 1992 the Amman Governorate Development Council spent JD 4,278,394 on water and irrigation projects.

U.S. to list Hamas

(Continued from page 1)
States defines as "terrorism."

An Israeli diplomat said inclusion of Hamas in the report would bring greater attention to bear on its activities. Israel argues that international criticism of the expulsion is unfair because it ignores the nature of Hamas and the wave of killings of Israelis by Hamas guerrillas.

Hamas, the arm of the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, was founded in Gaza in 1989 shortly after the beginning of the intifada. It has never before been included in the State Department's report.

This year's report will discuss the group's increasing power and support in the occupied territories. It will state that Hamas has the support or sympathy of tens of thousands of Palestinians, the State Department official said.

TENDERS NOTICE

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Half solutions won't do

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Rabin appears to be feeling the heat from Washington this time over the non-compliance of his government with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 demanding the return of the Palestinian expellees.

But he is offering half measures to defuse the stand-off with the U.S. and the rest of the international community.

First, Rabin was propagating the argument that the international community should await the final judgement of its high court on the issue of expulsions before the Security Council entertains applying sanctions against it.

Some Western leaders including President Clinton took this Israeli bait and decided to lobby for postponement of any international forceful action against Israel in deference to a possible positive intervention by the Israeli judiciary. Now, however, the entire world, including the new U.S. president, knows the fate of that Israeli tactical move and realises that it was intended only to gain time.

As the stand-off between Israel and the Security Council continued, the supporters of Israel on this issue have been effectively left with no more pretexts to prolong the agonies of the Palestinian expellees stranded now for more than 40 days and nights in no-man's land. So Rabin is making additional "overtures" to ease the pressure on his government and other foreign governments which sympathised with him at a considerable cost to their credibility and fairness. One of these latest Israeli tactics is to allow a few Palestinians to return as part of a "goodwill" gesture aimed to head off international punitive actions against Israel.

This kind of partial solutions should be rejected outright simply because Resolution 799 is not subject to partial or piecemeal implementation. Any favourable response to Israeli manoeuvring would therefore do grave injustice to the international organisation and stands to undermine its reputation and authority.

There is but one solution to the dispute between Israel and the comity of nations at large and that is to accept the judgement of the Security Council and implement it in full. Given the bankruptcy of the Israeli thesis that expelling more than 400 Palestinians would end the cycle of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories, as evidenced by the new wave of attacks against Israeli army soldiers. Israel must look for more effective ways to achieve peace at home and abroad. One sure way to do this is to make peace with its neighbours on the basis of justice and legitimacy. Anything short of that would only extend the cycle of violence and endanger the security of, above all, Israel itself.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE ARE indications that the scheduled U.N. Security Council session to deal with the question of the expellees will not take place in view of the U.S. pressure exercised on the Arab parties, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Monday. It is no secret also that the United States has been exercising pressure on the Security Council itself to prevent any debate on this issue for fear of exposing Israel to a confrontation with the United Nations, said the daily. Indeed, Washington has been demanding that the council wait until the Israeli High Court of Justice has issued its ruling, but since that court has already declared its verdict it would be difficult for Washington to continue to provide protection to Israel and its practices and its disregard of the council's resolutions, the paper continued. The U.S. administration is trying to avoid the use of the veto at any council session that condemns Israel or tries to impose punitive measures on the Jewish state for its present position, the paper added. Yet, by doing so, Washington is disrupting the work of the world organisation and tampering with its credibility while, at the same time, encouraging Israel to pursue mal-practices against the Palestinians, the paper added. The paper said that Washington's tactics behind the scene have serious implications because they aim at forcing the world organisation to grant Israel special rights and privileges not enjoyed by any other nation on earth, and backing the Jewish state's refusal to respect the world community's rules.

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to hike the price of bread by 10 fils per kilogramme came under fire by columnist Saleh Al Qalab in Al Dustour daily. The government should have studied this measure very carefully before applying it since bread constitutes the main staple for the majority of the Jordanian families, said the writer. Some might say that 10 fils a kilo would not affect the standard of living in this country, but those who say this do not belong to the majority of people living around the poverty line, he said. The writer said that many large families, whose children sometimes go to sleep on empty stomachs and who seldom smell meat and live on tea and bread for many days, will find it hard to cope under the newly-added burdens. When the government raised the price of diesel oil last year, it was the poor who suffered most; with the hike of the prices of bread, the poor who from the majority, will face more hardships, added the writer. We realise the motives behind hiking the price of bread, with the current difficult circumstances facing the Kingdom, said the writer, but there definitely are other commodities, not so essential, whose price could have been raised without affecting the poor majority.

The View from Fourth Circle

What shall triumph on this mountain — composure or emotion?

The ongoing diplomatic tug-of-war over the fate of the Palestinians expelled by Israel to southern Lebanon appears to be a rather straightforward contest between Palestinian obstinacy and Israeli intransigence. On the surface, the odds seem heavily stacked against the Palestinians, given the overall dependency status and weakness of the Arab World and the traditional reluctance of the United States, and the West in general, to force Israeli compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions. As we have come to learn, however, in the Holy Land and the wider Middle East things are rarely what they appear to be. This is a land of mysticism, desert mirages, miracles, holy writs for a global audience, allegories, parables, and prophecy, a land where tangible events and objects before our eyes more often than not relate to far greater visions and deeper passions. So it is with Israel and the Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

The Palestinians in southern Lebanon are symbols of several human, political and historical processes that the Israelis should fear, the Arabs should welcome and the Americans probably don't much care about as long as they have enough oil to power their drive-in churches and all-night taco stands.

On the human level, this is a battle whereby the Palestinians, refreshingly and mightily supported by the Lebanese government, once again show that they are prepared to suffer and pay the price of nationhood. The Palestinian-Lebanese posture in this standoff is quite novel in terms of contemporary Arab history, because it reflects a willingness to struggle, suffer and endure deprivation, rather than a reflexive submission to the comforts of the flesh, the dictates of the dollar, and the exigencies of foreign protection. This is not surprising. Since the early 1980s, the combination of Lebanese and Palestinian resistance to Israeli military might and distorted American diplomatic power has been at the forefront of what I have referred to as the Arab reawakening — the ongoing struggle for a more decent, equitable and durable Arab political order based on less militarism and autocracy and on more social and economic justice, authentic national identity, and personal dignity.

On the historical level, this stand-off symbolises a turning point in the very essence of the Palestinian-Zionist and Arab-Israeli conflicts that have defined our last century of Middle Eastern history: Israel's physical expulsion of Palestinians from the land of Palestine, its disregard for international law and norms and its imposition of political realities on neighbouring Arab states. The 20th century saw the short-term triumph of Zionism ideology and goals and the disenfranchisement and dispersal of the Palestinians, but the 21st century — which effectively started with the collapse of communism and apartheid in 1990/1991 — promises to witness victory for the Palestinians in terms of the implementation of Palestinian national rights alongside Israel.

The above two human and historical factors combine to create the third, or political, process at hand, which is basically threefold: that Israel must comply with international law and U.N. resolutions like all other countries must do; that the United States cannot perpetually champion, fund, excuse and rationalise blatant aggression, predatory violence, and the self-appointed racism and superior political morality of its friend and ally Israel.

regardless of the mumbo-jumbo of "special relationships", the offensive presumptuousness of an Israeli/Jewish "higher morality", or the very serious, quantifiable and mercantile business of urban electoral politics in the United States; and that the security and stability of the Middle East should be assured through a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict that effectively treats the Palestinians and Israelis as equals in human terms, which ultimately will translate into a parallel political parity. Israel started off as a British promise of "a national home" in Palestine and now is a powerful and predatory state. The idea of a Palestinian state today will similarly become a reality in time, though one hopes without the militaristic edge of the Israeli state. The point is, to seek modest, transitional goals today does not rule out — and probably guarantees — the attainment of national rights and aspirations in the longer term.

The current political process started in late 1991 with the question of the United States \$10 billion loan guarantees for Israel, which Washington delayed and fudged until Israel indicated that its programme of American-funded Jewish colonialism in the West Bank and Gaza would slow down or perhaps even be frozen. In this latest round, a similar political process is at work: the world insists that Israel cannot continue such blatant and inhuman denial of Palestinian rights, whether individual human rights or collective national rights.

The United States is caught in an uncomfortable position because it appears to finance and excuse Israel's political and moral violence against the Palestinians at a time when Washington is the driving force behind collective action through the United Nations to stop similarly offensive transgressions, violence, and rights denials in other parts of the world.

Israel's short-term problem is that its emotional stranglehold over the West is slowly becoming unshinged, as its old tricks no longer impress: it cannot lay claim to higher political or ideological rights on the basis of the persecution and mass suffering of Jews in Europe half a century ago, because it is the strong party today doing the persecution and inflicting the suffering on Arabs; it cannot sell itself and its services as the bastion against the penetration of communism in the Middle East, because communism has rolled over and died; it cannot perpetuate the fantasy of its role as a potential protector of Arab oil for the use of the western industrialised democracies, because the western industrialised democracies are now doing their own protection; it can no longer sell the racism and phoney tales of 19th century European colonialism, tales of pioneering Jews who are making the desert bloom in an empty land devoid of Palestinian Arabs, because the vitality and reality of Palestinian identity has imposed itself on the consciousness of the world in a dramatic way; and it has little chances of success in securing exaggerated western sympathy, cash or credible apologists on the basis of claiming that it is mortally threatened by powerful Arab armies, because most of those armies are fighting Israel a lot less these days, in favour of fighting their own people, fighting one another, or fighting the western superpowers.

Israel is trying to deal with these very serious constraints by creating a new and frightening spectre: Islamic fundamentalism,

or, if Israel can have its way, Islam in general, and Arab Islam in particular. The ruse may work, especially as the United States and some others in the West, seem to need an external threat against which they can direct their deep-fried chicken commercial diplomacy and their ahistorical sense of global self-importance. If it works, however, it should not be aided by our own Arab emotionalism, diplomatic incompetence and baste.

The same political, human and historical forces that have brought Israel to its present uncomfortable situation will continue to pressure it to comply with U.N. resolutions and the consensus political morality of the international community. It is interesting to hear American officials consistently talk of what Iraq must do if it wishes to "rejoin the community of civilised nations" or something along those lines. The fact is, the rest of the world is asking more or less the same question vis-a-vis Israel and its financiers-guardians-apologists in Washington: when will Israel finally live by the same rules as other countries, and implement U.N. resolutions with the same compulsion impressed on many other countries in the world?

They will try to ignore this reality in Washington and Israel, but they cannot ignore it for very long without looking really foolish. Our job is to maintain the world's focus on the double-standards that pertain here, keep pointing out the facts, pile on the diplomatic pressure and continue forcing humankind's and history's inexorable quest for stability and order based on justice. The best place to do all of these things is in the currently paused Arab-Israeli peace talks. Our hearts and hopes are with the men living in tents in southern Lebanon, but we have to resist the temptation that Israel is dangling before us, which is to submit to emotionalism and to break off the peace talks unless all the expelled Palestinians are returned home.

The fact is, expulsions of Palestinians are among the last gasps of the old Middle Eastern order and Israel's old 20th century deceptions. They are acts and symbols of the old ways that are now failing, and that — like apartheid and communism — will gradually unravel and crumble under the weight of their own audacity, unnaturalism and inhumanity. The new ways and the more lasting structures of national identity and regional stability will be devised in part at the Middle East peace talks, as well as in the minds and living rooms of Arabs, Muslims, Semites and other Middle Easterners throughout this region.

When the emotional pressures of the present push us to the edge of anger and despair, and the frightening reality of our fragmentation and dependence drive us towards total disillusionment, and the harsh violence of Zionism tempts us to respond with equal hatred and harshness, we should learn from our past experiences and pause for moment of analysis. We should then make an extra effort to summon the counterbalancing composure of historical process, or else be doomed to do this again next year, on another mountain, with yet another cast of Israeli and American politicians who look at us with fear, disbelief and disdain, but who do not see us as human beings.

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With its uranium shells, Desert Storm may have sown death

By Eric Hoskins

AMMAN, Jordan — The Gulf war lives on, as this week's air strikes against Iraq have proved. But the conflict goes beyond Iraqi missile batteries in forbidden places. It extends frighteningly to radioactive artillery shells used by the coalition forces two years ago. The spent rounds may be the cause of fatal illnesses, including cancer and mysterious new stomach ailments, showing up in Iraqi children.

Due to sanctions and war, the death rate of children under five has tripled. In the first eight months of 1991 alone, 50,000 children died. Children are especially vulnerable because their cells divide rapidly as they grow. In pregnant women, absorbed uranium can cross the placenta into the bloodstream of the fetus.

In addition to its radioactive dangers, uranium is chemically toxic, like lead, and can damage the kidneys or lungs. Perhaps the fatal epidemic of swollen abdomens among Iraqi children is caused by kidney failure resulting from uranium poisoning. Whatever the effect of the depleted uranium shells, it is made worse by malnutrition and poor health conditions.

The British report called the presence of depleted uranium in Iraq and Kuwait a "significant problem," concluding that there is enough uranium there to cause tens of thousands of potential deaths." Fortunately, there have been no reports of uranium-related illnesses in Kuwait. That may be because fewer uranium shells were used there — most of the heavy ground fighting took place in southern Iraq — and because the country was cleaned up after the war.

A confidential report by United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, written in April 1991 and leaked to the London newspaper *The Independent* in November of that year, estimates that at least 40 tonnes of depleted uranium were dispersed in Iraq and Kuwait during the war.

Among other things, the depleted uranium rounds forced the Pentagon to concede additional friendly-fire casualties when traces of radioactivity were found on destroyed coalition military vehicles. Iraqi forces did not have uranium penetrators.

While it is too early to prove a link, many health experts suspect that the post-war increase in childhood cancer and mysterious swollen abdomens is due, at least in part, to the radioactive shells. United Nations personnel and aid workers have seen children playing with empty shells, abandoned weapons and destroyed tanks. In Basra, a foreign doctor saw a child using depleted uranium shells as hand puppets.

The Pentagon insists that de-

pleted uranium rounds are safe if handled correctly and disposed of properly.

Despite the risks associated with depleted uranium, there has been virtually no public debate about its effects in Iraq. The U.N. Environment Programme, which has investigated the ecological damage of the Gulf war, has been remarkably silent. To date, no effort has been made to assess

the extent of radioactive contamination due to depleted uranium rounds in Iraq or to locate and remove the shells.

Although the U.S. Congress has ordered the military to monitor the health of soldiers exposed to smoke from Kuwaiti oil fires, there has been no such directive concerning exposure to depleted uranium.

What should be done? Once

current tensions in the Gulf have

subsided, qualified research groups, such as the 1991 Harvard Study Team, should go to Iraq to analyse soil and water for evidence of uranium contamination.

Epidiomologists should explore the connection between the uranium shells and cancer.

The United Nations must take a more active role in investigating the danger posed by the shells and begin cleanup efforts of all radioactive shells remaining in

Iraq and Kuwait. It should also consider recommending that depleted uranium penetrators be banned in accordance with international treaties on chemical and radioactive weapons.

The writer, a doctor and public health specialist, was medical coordinator of the Harvard Study Team's surveys of health in post-war Iraq. The article is reprinted from the New York Times.

Give us our rightful place

To the Editor:

Thank you Najwa Kafaya for writing about some of the problems of women in Arab societies in "Obsolete legacies and reflections of tomorrow" (Jordan Times, Jan. 25, 1993).

You mentioned that specialists try to help women who are confronted with various kinds of problems. I would greatly appreciate it if you supplied the readers of the Jordan Times with names, addresses, telephone numbers and people working for organisations which help women.

Many women face traumatic problems either at home or outside and have no one and nowhere to turn to, for they are denied access to someone who can lend a shoulder to cry on or who may supply constructive advice to enable them to cope with the constant pressures they might face.

There should even be a "Hotline" catered by professionals who can give aid and comfort to women in distress.

Charity, like democracy, begins at home. Charity is not just giving alms to the poor, but is love for one's fellow man or woman. In order for Jordan to really appreciate and comprehend the process of democratisation, each family should establish a platform of plurality where in each member, regardless of the gender, will have a representative voice in the affairs of the household. Such a practice would not have to take away patriarchal authority but merely give each member of the family a means to express his or her opinion effectively.

Democracy in practice is actually respect for the rights of each individual and the individual is the basis and foundation of any nation; so the same norms should apply in the government of the home.

How important are women? They are as important as society itself and their importance can be measured in many ways. A major one is that they raise future generations of adults. In order for a woman to be qualified for this most important job on earth, she should be well educated so that not only her children benefit from her knowledge but also society as a whole.

A woman is not lesser when it comes to the mental capacity to think in a straight line, formulate opinions and have her own unique ideas. She might have inherent physical qualities distinguishing her from a man, but she should not be regarded as an inferior being or a thing to be manipulated by the whims of some who practice obsolete traditions which in certain cases are even un-Islamic.

It is the right of each woman to secure her place in the society as a contributing intelligent member who serves her nation, home and family within the constraints of her religion.

Islam actually allows women to become and achieve so much; it is only ignorance and backwardness that deny her her rightful place in society and life.

Name withheld upon request.

A cry for help

To the Editor:

Following is an open letter to the Lower House of Parliament sent by the writer.

Acting upon His Majesty King Hussein's slogan "the human being is the most precious asset in Jordan", and in line with the ongoing efforts worldwide, towards providing protection to people against environmental pollution, we, the residents of the city of Fuheis, hope to bring our case to your attention.

This letter reflects deep feelings of concern and frustration over our failed attempts to remove an omnipresent danger to our lives, hope to find an appropriate solution.

The city of Fuheis continues to struggle against the problem of pollution resulting from the tonnes of cement dust showering the city day and night and endangering the lives of its residents. This poisonous substance permeates the lungs and the liver of our children, covers their bodies, their food and drink, spoils their gardens and their beds, contaminates their water and air and causes a slow death to everyone.

Scientists have found out that cement dust, among other pollutants, causes serious health problems as it contains carbon dioxide, sulphur and lead to mention only a few substances. Lead, for instance, causes damage to the blood cells, inflammation of the nose, allergy to various parts of the body, chronic headaches and cancer.

As we follow our debates demanding from the government to open roads, improve hospitals, build industries, demands that seem impossible to meet and can be described as electioneering speeches, we have discovered that none of you has raised the question of providing protection to human beings against health hazards. You should realise that prevention is better than cure.

None of you has ever raised his voice to rescue a whole city from the danger of death and it seems that the fate of this city is of concern to no one in Parliament.

We have exhausted all our efforts and cried until our throats became hoarse, but no one

Cabinet reshuffle put off for now

(Continued from page 1)
Some officials privately concede that there have been several mistakes and setbacks, but they are quick to add that the government was aware of its mistakes and has worked hard to fix them.

"The government has had the courage to reconsider its decision not to license three political parties and worked for an out-of-court settlement," the official said. "This proves that the government is conscious of the need to protect democracy even at the expense of reversing its decisions when necessary."

On a more mundane level, political analysts and officials agree that the government has been unable to transmit to all its institutions its vision for administrative reform. "The administrative apparatus is just not reacting to the vision set out by the King and the government," an official said.

"The government, however, has extended all the support it can to its plan for administrative reform and it is trying to push it down to all government levels," the official added.

As for partisan criticism that the government has been crippled by its efforts to appease all political sides in Jordan and in the process satisfied none at all, senior officials say that that although this might appear to be a point of weakness on the surface "it is actually a source of strength."

"We must consider first that this is a coalition government," a well-placed governmental source said. "And although politicised ministers such as those we have, are under pressure from their constituencies to go one way or another, their presence in the government is in itself an indication of political pluralism and consensus."

The "appeasement" factor might account for what critics call the "leadership vacuum" in promulgating and defending the government's programmes and its image in public eyes.

Arafat heads for Baghdad after talks

(Continued from page 1)

with the U.S. and the U.N. all he has to do is change his behaviour."

He is going to talk about a whole host of issues, including the issue of the expellees in South Lebanon, the peace process and of course the return of Iraq into the international and Arab fold," said the senior PLO official who chose to remain anonymous.

King Hussein has been in the forefront in calling for an end to the two-and-a-half-year-old economic sanctions against Iraq.

Addressing military officers in November, the King called for greater liberalisation of the Iraqi political system.

"What we wish for is a national reconciliation and democracy which would enable it (Iraq) to overcome all obstacles. We also wish for political pluralism which would achieve stability ...," the King said.

Mr. Arafat travelled by helicopter to the Jordanian-Iraqi border and hoped to find an Iraqi helicopter on the Iraqi side, said Ambassador Abdul Rahim.

"Despite the sanctions they should be able to send a helicopter," said the ambassador referring to the ban on Iraqi flights. "Otherwise he will travel 600 kilometres by car to Baghdad."

As the first head of state to visit Iraq in the two years since the

Hamdoun detects 'signals' of change

(Continued from page 1)

everything they needed to achieve their mission.

A top U.N. nuclear inspector, Maurizio Zifferero, left after a six-day mission Sunday saying that he was not confident Baghdad was prepared to name the foreign suppliers.

He said without that list, officials could not certify that Baghdad was complying with U.N. resolutions on disarming its weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Zifferero said in Bahrain, Iraq could develop an atomic bomb within 10 years if it were

"The people in general do not feel the presence of a government strongly committed to a clear line of policy or the emergence of an effective voice defending its policies and programmes," one critic said.

Government supporters, however, argue that the problem, if and where it exists, is not due to lack of vision or clear policies on the part of the government.

"It may well be a question of approach," a Cabinet minister said. "The prime minister, besides being a quiet operator and a man who shuns publicity for publicity's sake, is a member of the royal family and a close confidant of the King," the minister added.

"He does not want to be controversial and to appear to favour some people's opinions over others. Sharif Zeid prefers to stay outside controversy rather than be at the centre of times."

"That type of approach, a government supporter said, "does not negate the fact that Sharif Zeid wants to move ahead with democracy and institutionalise it as a way of life at this very difficult stage in Jordan's and the region's history."

A another government source, who agrees that Sharif Zeid can well be described as a "cautious" prime minister, said that the premier's policy of keeping a low profile "must be seen against his background of being the prime minister whose first government organised Jordan's return to democracy in 1989."

"Sharif Zeid's second government, or a variation on it (after the reshuffle) is the most likely candidate to supervise the next round of elections," the source said. "And based on this, what might be called 'appeasement' by him of the various political groups and tendencies in the country could be no more than his way of building a consensus upon which everybody could stand and operate."

"We must consider first that this is a coalition government," a well-placed governmental source said. "And although politicised ministers such as those we have, are under pressure from their constituents to go one way or another, their presence in the government is in itself an indication of political pluralism and consensus."

The "appeasement" factor might account for what critics call the "leadership vacuum" in promulgating and defending the government's programmes and its image in public eyes.

Cabinet reshuffle put off for now

(Continued from page 1)

with the U.S. and the U.N. all he has to do is change his behaviour."

He is going to talk about a whole host of issues, including the issue of the expellees in South Lebanon, the peace process and of course the return of Iraq into the international and Arab fold," said the senior PLO official who chose to remain anonymous.

King Hussein has been in the forefront in calling for an end to the two-and-a-half-year-old economic sanctions against Iraq.

Addressing military officers in November, the King called for greater liberalisation of the Iraqi political system.

"What we wish for is a national reconciliation and democracy which would enable it (Iraq) to overcome all obstacles. We also wish for political pluralism which would achieve stability ...," the King said.

Mr. Arafat travelled by helicopter to the Jordanian-Iraqi border and hoped to find an Iraqi helicopter on the Iraqi side, said Ambassador Abdul Rahim.

"Despite the sanctions they should be able to send a helicopter," said the ambassador referring to the ban on Iraqi flights. "Otherwise he will travel 600 kilometres by car to Baghdad."

Christopher optimistic on crisis

(Continued from page 1)

when they meet Mr. Peres at a dinner Monday night.

"We will all, I expect, point out quite clearly our dismay at this turn of events," Mr. Hurd said referring to the crisis.

"The Israelis have to find a way out of this difficulty. Otherwise the peace process will be at risk, and on the peace process depends the security of Israel and the hopes for a real and lasting settlement of that long-running and disastrous dispute."

Mr. Hurd declined to answer when asked whether the community should threaten Israel with economic sanctions, as demanded by Palestinian leaders, if the expulsion orders are not reversed.

Speaking to reporters as he arrived for a regular meeting of EC foreign ministers, Mr. Hurd said he and his colleagues would stress the need to find a solution

Sanctions bite hard middle class Iraqis; hope for a U.S. policy change pervades

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The writer has just returned from a week-long trip to Iraq.

BAGHDAD — Victorian silver tea sets and mink coats are on sale in the crowded antiquities shop across from the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad. Packed with silver from Asfahan (in Iran) and colourful Kurdish rugs, the shop does not ordinarily sell English silver and fur coats, but hard times have changed that.

"Ladies from good families come to me and ask if they can put their things on sale in my shop," said Fatima Shaker, the owner of the shop. Elegantly dressed herself, she speaks at length about the impoverishment of the former upper and middle classes.

"Many of the women who come to sell the Georgian and Victorian tea sets had received them as wedding presents," says Mrs. Shaker.

Selling wedding presents is "not a good sign," she says. Economic hardships created by two wars in ten years and 29 months of U.N.-sponsored economic sanctions are at the root of the situation, says the long-time shop owner.

Sanctions, says Monica Press of relief agency Oxfam, "are biting

those that are the most vulnerable and the educated middle class."

Many Iraqis agree. "Do you think that the government is being hurt or hurting?" asked Dr. Farouk Azzawi, head of the Yarmouk Hospital, one of the largest health centres in Baghdad.

"It's the little man and the English professor that are being hurt by the sanctions, not the government," he insists.

The immense effort going into the reconstruction and, in some cases, the new construction of bridges, government institutions, food warehouses and statues has given people a psychological lift. "We are rebuilding in spite of sanctions," said Yasser Tillawi, a food merchant. "We will build a greater Baghdad than the one before the sanctions and the war," he said proudly.

But reconstruction and a new drive for self-sufficiency in food-stuffs is taxing the people in the short term.

While the government is providing for 60 per cent of the basic food needs through the ration system, which was introduced shortly after the sanctions were imposed in August 1990, most Iraqis live on that alone.

A large percentage of Iraqis is thus bound to be underfed for some time to come if economic

sanctions are not lifted.

With the banning of imported luxury items in December of last year, over 100 items, are no longer available on the public market.

While black market goods exist in relatively small quantities, they are only available to certain people and at 700 times the price they were sold before the ban.

"It's the little man and the English professor that are being hurt by the sanctions, not the government," he insists.

A 3,000 per cent inflation rate continues to further impoverish the people. The government hopes that by increasing agricultural production, the economic burden on the average citizen will be somewhat alleviated. But the newly-inaugurated Saddam River, as well as the factories being rebuilt, will take at least another year to reap fruit.

In the meantime, Iraqis are willing to sell oil and make concessions of all sorts to improve their economic conditions.

Ministry of Trade officials say that at present the Iraqi government is buying some of the basic food staples from private Iraqi merchants in Iraqi dinars to avoid reducing their already depleted foreign assets.

Most of the food warehouses, 50 per cent of which were bombed by the coalition forces in 1991, are being rebuilt from leftover construction material and melted down metal sheets.

While many observers have been speculating for much of the last two years that the reconstruction effort in Iraq was only possible through sanction busting, such critics appear to have underestimated the ingenuity of the Iraqis.

Most of the food warehouses, 50 per cent of which were bombed by the coalition forces in 1991, are being rebuilt from leftover construction material and melted down metal sheets.

Irqi merchants seem to be able to get hold of foreign currency to buy food supplies through third parties.

The enormous reconstruction

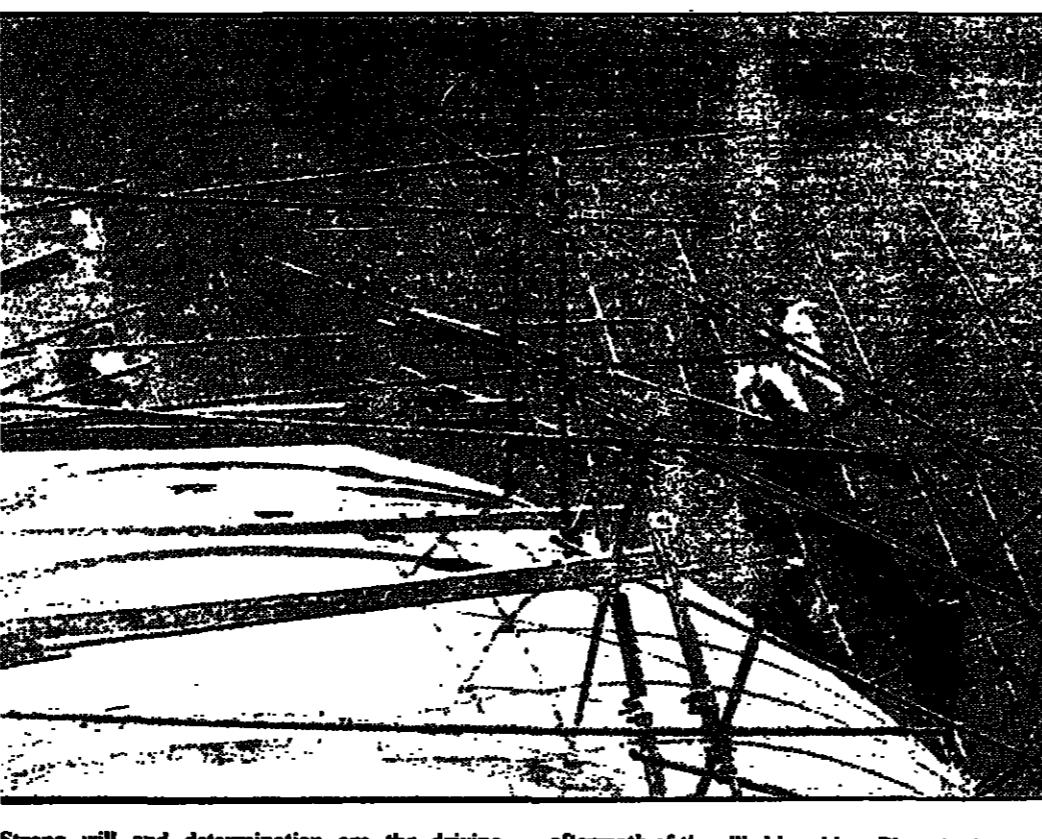
effort, like the food supply system, has been made possible by an incredible resolve on the part of the government to rebuild, in part out of pride and in part to show that "Iraq loses no war."

"Only someone like Saddam Hussein can fuel such an enormous effort," said one Iraqi intellectual. "He and the Baath Party are so resolute in their ambitions that any other considerations become irrelevant," he added.

During this last raid on Baghdad by the Americans we were so afraid that they would hit the water supplies or our electricity centres again," said one resident of the middle class Al Mansour district.

Many of the telephone and electricity lines in Baghdad and Basra have been rebuilt by what the government still had in stock supplies and partly by reused lines from villages and smaller towns.

While Iraqi officials and people are hoping that economic sanctions will be lifted in the first year of President Clinton's term, they are preparing themselves for a long wait.



Strong will and determination are the driving forces behind Iraq's reconstruction boom in the aftermath of the allied bombing (Photo by Mariam M. Shahin)

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Japanese traditional sports mission arrives in Amman

By Aileen Banayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 32-member delegation of the Japanese traditional sports mission arrived in Amman Monday on an invitation from the Jordanian High Council of Martial Arts (JHCMA).

The delegation, currently on a tour of the Middle East, will have a four day stay in the Kingdom during which they will have two shows in Amman and Irbid to demonstrate the four Japanese traditional sports — judo, kendo, aikido, and karatedo.

In addition to the now familiar judo and karate, Jordanian spectators and martial arts athletes will have the unique chance of watching the less known aikido and kendo.

Kendo is the Japanese sport of fencing with bamboo swords. Aikido on the other hand, is known as the Japanese art of self-defence employing locks and holds and utilizing the principle of non-resistance to cause an opponent's own momentum to work against him.

The JHCMA, chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, has arranged a busy schedule for the visiting delegation including practice sessions with the Jordanian karate and judo teams and lectures in martial arts.

The Japanese traditional sports mission headed by Mr. Kunio Kataura, is affiliated with the Japan Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 1972 with the aim of



While Jordanians are familiar with judo...



...kendo will be a novel sport to watch

enhancing understanding and cultural relations between Japan and other countries.

The first show of the visiting delegation will be held

Wednesday afternoon at Al Orthodoxi Club, while the second will be held Thursday at Al Yarmouk University in Irbid.

AC Milan apparently slowing down

MILAN (AP) — Following a blistering first half in the current campaign, League leader AC Milan is apparently slowing down its record pace.

But its pursuers are slowing too, frustrating their hopes and chances to get closer to the dominant Milan powerhouse.

As AC Milan came to the brink of its first defeat in 20 months at Foggia — and barely avoided it — runner-up Internazionale was held to a 3-2 draw at home by underdog Udinese and remained 8 points behind the crosttown rival overall.

Third-place Atalanta of Bergamo played to a goalless draw at Parma.

"We played well only a half of the game. We missed a great opportunity to take advantage of Milan's draw and reduce our gap," said Inter's coach Osvaldo Bagnoli.

At Foggia, Milan faced risks and a big scare but still played to a 2-2 draw which extended its unbeaten streak to 53 league games.

However, the draw, the fourth in 18 rounds this season, prevented Milan from setting a record of nine consecutive wins on the road and more than that evidenced an unexpected defensive weakness.

As veteran sweeper Franco Baresi served a one-game suspension, Milan's defenders were often in trouble against the fast actions of Foggia's forwards who scored a first half goal and earned a penalty kick which Milan's Goalie Sebastiano Rossi managed to stop.

"If Foggia made it 2-0, it would have meant certain defeat for us," Milan's coach Fabio Capello said.

Instead Jean Pierre Papin and Frank Rijkaard lifted Milan to a 2-1 lead after escaping the danger and Foggia needed a helpful hand



Lazio's Paul Gascoigne

from Goalie Rossi to capture a well deserved draw.

Rossi failed to grab the ball on a corner kick, Milan defenders were slow in reacting and Foglia's midfielder Andrea Seno was quick to kick in from a few metres.

"If a team deserved victory, it was Foglia," Seno said after the game.

The southern Italian team, which wears the same black-and-red colours of AC Milan, also used Milan's traditional midfield pressing, zone defence and fast offense in the attempt to cause the day's sensation.

Most critics agreed that Foglia went very close to it.

"Milan faced the devils at Foglia," wrote Italy's largest sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

The devil is AC Milan symbol. Farther behind Milan, Lazio of Rome joined Juventus and Atalanta in third place, still 11 points behind the leaders.

Lazio downed Sampdoria at Rome's Olympic Stadium with goals of German forward Karsten Riedel and Giovanni Strappa.

Lazio's English Virtuoso Paul

Gascoigne earned headlines for his outstanding performance against La Samp.

Last week Gascoigne was bitterly criticised by Italian media for answering with a belch a question by a television interviewer.

However, Lazio supporters apparently enjoyed it and chanted "Oh he's a jolly good belcher" during last Thursday's cup of Italy match against Torino.

In the round AC Milan takes on last-place Pescara, which unexpectedly held AS Roma to a 1-1 draw.

Inter travels to Cagliari, Sardinia and Lazio plays at Florence.

Beijing and Sydney are generally seen as the frontrunners ahead of

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH
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RIXI MARKUS, 1910-1992

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 10 3
J 9 7 6 5
10 6
+ 10 5 4 2
WEST
♦ 5 4 2
A K B 4 3 2
8 5
+ 7 3
SOUTH
♦ Q J 6 6
10
A K Q 9 7 4 3
+ K

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♦
It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of one of the greatest women bridge players of any era, Rixi Markus of London. Her death follows by less than two months that of Fritz Gordon, the partner with whom she achieved her greatest successes. Together they won two World Women's Pairs, the World Mixed Teams and World Women's Olympiad Teams, and numerous European Women's Championships. Markus was the first woman to achieve the rank of World

Grandmaster, followed soon after by Gordon.

At the table, Markus was an aggressive bidder and enterprising player with excellent table presence. There are many great hands featuring her skill, yet this simple one was among her favorites.

North-South were using a system in which a one-diamond opening bid promised a hand of 16 points or better, hence South's choice of one spade for the initial action. Sitting East, with the vulnerability in her favor, Markus elected to defend rather than bid, a decision not easy to contemplate, but which was soon vindicated.

West led the king of hearts and continued with the ace. East discarded a diamond and declarer, reluctant to ruff, did the same. West shifted to the three of clubs, East rose with the ace and returned a low club. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace of diamonds and continued with the king. East ruffed, cashed the two high spades and then forced declarer's last trump with a club. That was South's last trick — 400 and an absolute top to East-West.

Rixi worked long and hard to promote bridge. The game will miss her sorely.

OUR CLEANING WOMAN IS OFF SICK AND ANY HOPE OF YOUR MUSIGS GIVING US A COUPLE OF EARLY MORNINGS?
MY FLO'S GOTTALE ENOUGH WORK TO DO COMING HOME FROM WORK AND GETTING OFF TO HER DARN WORK!
FAIR ENOUGH. I JUST THOUGHT THE EXTRAS WOULD COME IN HANDY.
...OH, WELL ANYTHING TO HELP HALIZUM OUT OF A PINCH, ANYWAY.

IT'S PRETTY COLD OUT.. YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO GO FOR A WALK?
OKAY, I'LL GET THE LEASH..
IF I'M LUCKY, NO ONE WILL SEE US..
I LOOK THROUGH THE KEYHOLE!

OH, HOW DAKE YOU ENTER MY ROOM WITHOUT KNOCKING!
HOW COULD I KNOCK? I HAVE MY HANDS FULL!
INDEED! SUPPOSE I HAD BEEN INDISPONED OR HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY ATTIRED?
ABOUT THAT? I KNOW WHEN IT'S OK TO COME IN AND WHEN IT'S NOT!
I LOOK THROUGH THE KEYHOLE!

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Courier, Seles still leaders of the pack

MELBOURNE (R) — Jim Courier and Monica Seles stamped their authority on the Australian Open at the weekend and gave notice they intend to dominate tennis in 1993.

The pair's title successes in the first Grand Slam tournament of the year merely proved that little has changed since they both stood on the victory rostrum at Flinders Park 12 months ago.

Courier's success in 1992 propelled him to the forefront of the men's game where he stayed for virtually the whole year despite failing to win a tournament beyond the French Open in May.

His rivals may have to wait months for another chance to unseat the super-fit 22-year-old American.

The next Grand Slam tournament is the French Open starting in May on the red clay of Roland Garros, a venue where Courier has triumphed in each of the last two years.

Edberg, the world number two who has now lost three Australian Open finals, two of them to Courier, agrees the future looks bright for the American.

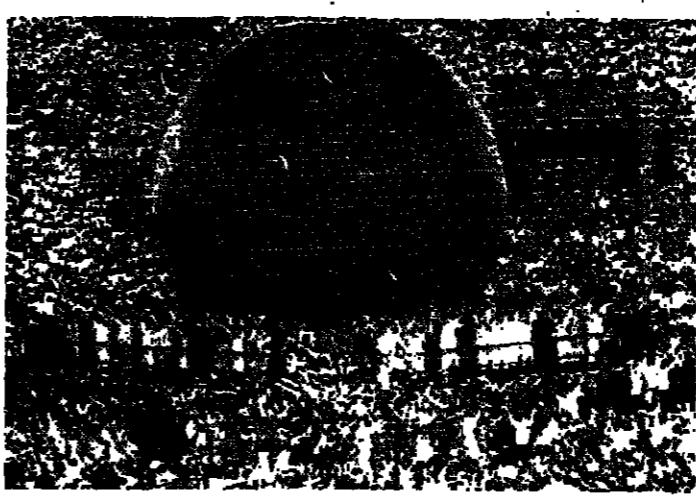
"I think he's already a champion. He's won four Slams now, he's a really hard worker.... I think he is going to get more and more credit," Edberg said.

Edberg and Pete Sampras were unable to stop Courier delivering at Melbourne, and even a fit Andre Agassi or Goran Ivanisevic would have struggled to match him in a tournament which retains its reputation as the most arduous of the year.

Whenever it was played, it is a fair bet Seles would win the women's singles. Her domination of her rivals is such that she has now reached the final in 33 of her last 34 tournaments, winning 23 of them. Her Grand Slam tally is now eight and, at just 19, she remains on a heady upward spiral.

After her 4-6 6-3 6-2 defeat of Steffi Graf Saturday in a final which again demonstrated her competitive instincts she sounded almost in awe of her achievements.

"It's incredible and I still don't know a lot of the time how I've done it. I just take one match at a time and maybe don't look too far ahead..." she said.



An elaborate halftime programme, which included U.S. entertainer Michael Jackson, accompanied by 3,000 children, fills the Rose Bowl Stadium (AFP photo)

Cowboys demolish Bills

PASADENA, California (AP) — It was quicker than anyone could imagine.

Three seasons ago, the Dallas Cowboys were the worst team in NFL history. Now they're Super Bowl champions and they did it with four of the quickest touchdowns ever.

That was something strange about this year's Super Bowl broadcast: the advertising.

Soft drink commercials started like low-budget cooking and home decorating shows. A baseball star shot hoops in outer space in commercials for a shoe company and from atop a skyscraper for a fast-food chain.

And the latest game in a series of commercials with animated beer bottles playing football hinged on intervention by a blimp driver.

But maybe that's what it takes to hold an audience when Dallas is running up the score in a 52-17 victory over Buffalo for the National Football League championship.

No matter what the score, Super Bowl games usually draw the biggest audiences of the year to television, enabling the network that telecasts the event to charge record commercial rates.

NBC wouldn't say how much it charged for this year's telecast, but industry sources put it at about \$850,000 for a half-minute ad.

Statistics from Sunday's Super Bowl

	Buffalo	Dallas
First downs	22	20
Rushes-yards	29-108	29-137
Passing yards	254	271
Passes	22-38-4	22-30-0
Sacks by-yards	1-2	4-22
Sacks by-yards	3-45.3	4-32.8
Punts	8-5	4-2
Fumbles-lost	4-30	8-53
Penalties-yards	28-48	31-12

Five more cities join 2000 summer Olympics race

LAUSANNE (R) — Five more cities, including scandal-hit Milan, Monday joined the race to host the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Manchester, Istanbul, Berlin, Milan and Brasilia.

Milan went in early Monday

but the city faced a massive public relations task.

Milan has become the vortex of a major political corruption scandal that has led to many of the city's politicians being arrested for allegedly accepting bribes from businessmen.

Those who voted against the proposal said Milan was not fit morally to host the games and in a recent opinion poll 56 percent voted against the city's can-

didature.

For Istanbul, Monday's bid represents an attempt to create Olympic history.

Located in both Europe and Asia, the Turkish city straddling the Bosphorus would, if selected, become the first city to host the Olympics on two continents.

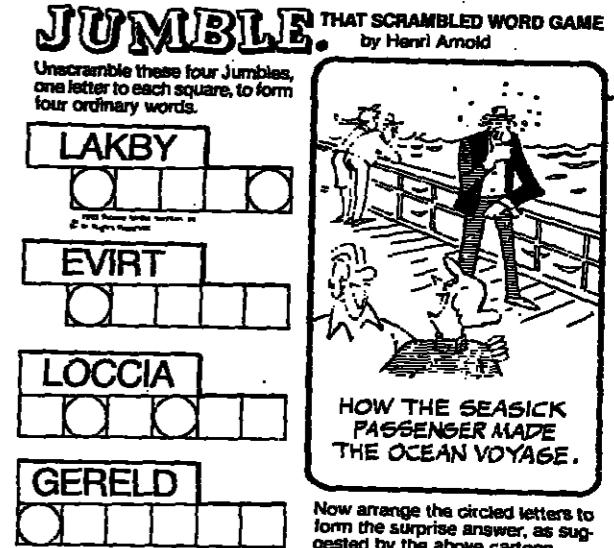
The choice of the host city will be made at an IOC session in Monte Carlo in September.

London betting: 4-5 Beijing, 6-4 Sydney, 8-1 Manchester, 14-1 Milan, 16-1 Berlin, 100-1 Brasilia.

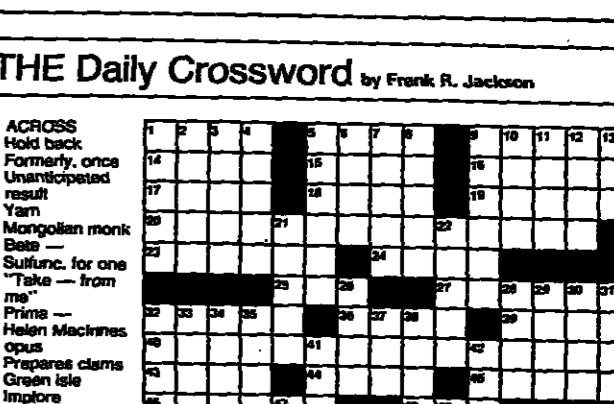
THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Yesterday's Jumble: FAINT PRINT TETHER UNLESS
Answer: What the baller dancer worked—
A SPLIT SHIFT



Financial Markets Jordan Times

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close Date 29/1/93	New York Close Date 1/2/93
Sterling Pound*	1.4870	1.4543
Deutsche Mark	1.6113	1.6277
Swiss Franc	1.4880	1.5035
French Franc	5.4515	5.5090 **
Japanese Yen	124.85	124.95
European Currency Unit	1.2115	1.1984 **

* USD Per SGD
** European Opening at 1200 U.S. GMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 1/2/93

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.15	3.25	3.37	3.68
Sterling Pound	6.06	5.75	5.50	5.50
Deutsche Mark	8.56	8.37	8.00	7.50
Swiss Franc	5.31	5.37	5.25	5.12
French Franc	13.00	12.50	11.00	9.50
Japanese Yen	3.43	3.37	3.31	3.31
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.75	9.56	9.00

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Month Dates: 1/2/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.55	6.50	Silver	3.66	.080

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/2/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.690	0.692
Sterling Pound	1.0031	1.0081
Deutsche Mark	0.4234	0.4255
Swiss Franc	0.4582	0.4605
French Franc	0.1250	0.1256
Japanese Yen*	0.5515	0.5543
Dutch Guilder	0.3759	0.3778
Swedish Krona	0.0932	0.0937
Italian Lira*	0.0455	0.0457
Belgian Franc	0.02075	0.02085

For 100 Other Currencies Dates: 1/2/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7960	1.8150
Lebanese Lira*	0.0360	0.0405
Saudi Riyal	0.1832	0.1848
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2920	2.2920
Qatari Riyal	0.1864	0.1878
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7700
UAE Dirham	0.1864	0.1878
Greek Drachma*	0.3200	0.3300
Cypriot Pound	1.4050	1.4325

For 100 CAC Indices for Amman Financial Market:

Index	30/1/93 Close	31/1/93 Close
All Share	190.46	190.42
Banking Sector	139.06	138.86
Insurance Sector	211.19	210.20
Industry Sector	259.63	259.92
Services Sector	256.60	256.43

December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2702/07	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks
	1.6240/50	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs
	1.8250/65	Belgian francs	French francs
	1.4997/5007	Italian lire	Japanese yen
	33.41/45	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns
	5.4900/50	Danish crowns	Danish crowns
	1505/1510		
	124.84/89		
	7.4220/4320		
	6.9150/7.0050		
	6.2550/2350		
	1.4575/85		
	\$329.40/329.90		

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French left, right prepare for cohabitation

PARIS (AP) — It is politely called "cohabitation," but the increasingly likely division of rule between a Socialist president and a conservative parliament already looks like a failing marriage.

President Francois Mitterrand's governing Socialists trail badly in the polls and appear certain to lose March 21 National Assembly elections.

The confident conservatives promise to give him a hard time the last two years of his term. Mr. Mitterrand could do the same to them.

Unlike most other parliamentary democracies, where the president is a figurehead, France gives its president powers that can impinge on the parliament.

For example, he can fire the prime minister, whom he chooses, and is empowered to dismiss the parliament and call elections. The threat of dissolution will hang over a cohabitation parliament, although Mr. Mitterrand is unlikely to take that step unless the Socialists' popularity rebounds.

The constitution gives the president ambiguous control of foreign and defence policy. Parliament traditionally has had no say, even though the premier picks the foreign and defence ministers.

Conservative parties plan to challenge this.

During the last cohabitation, in 1986-88, Mr. Mitterrand impeded conservatives' efforts to sell state-owned industries and undercut the government by publicly criticising its negotiations to free French hostages in Lebanon.

Some conservatives, even some moderates, are demanding that Mr. Mitterrand, 76, step down after the election.

"In case of a really big failure in the legislative elections, the president should think about leaving," said Raymond Barre, a moderate who was prime minister in 1976-1981, when the conservatives last controlled both the presidency and parliament.

If Mr. Mitterrand stays, "we will have to make it clear that it's to apply the policies the French people want," said Herve De Charette, a confidant of former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. "Otherwise, it's not longer a presidency, it's a monarchy."

Mr. Mitterrand shows no sign of stepping down, even after cancer surgery last year, and right-wing leaders fear a political gridlock with effects far beyond France's borders.

French backing is vital to U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf and former Yugoslavia. Turf battles between Mr. Mitterrand and a hostile foreign minister could confuse other nations about who speaks for France.

Paris is already blocking a world trade agreement in order to protect the subsidies of French farmers, and the conservatives are even more beholden to rural voters.

Enthusiasm is waning for Mr. Mitterrand's dream of European union. Although the mainstream right sees the European Community (EC) as vital to French influence, dissidents demand that France reject a German-dominated EC monetary union.

Domestically, the Socialists will bequeath to their successors an unemployment rate of 10.5 per cent and a record budget deficit of \$41 billion.

Conservatives are confident of a huge mandate. Even though Socialist Premier Pierre Beregovoy says "battle is ever lost in advance," he is talking about damage control, not victory.

Polls indicate the right is supported by about 40 per cent of the voters, double that of either the Socialists or a coalition of two environmental parties.

Under France's two-round election system, analysts believe the right-wing alliance could win 400 seats in the 577-member National Assembly.

Even so, conservatives fear Mr. Mitterrand will exploit personal ambitions to break up the uneasy union between rightist rivals.

Squabbling over the premiership already has begun.

The premier usually is the leader of the Assembly's largest party, but Mayor Jacques Chirac of Paris, who heads the dominant Rally for the Republic, does not want the job.

His popularity dwindled under the day-to-day political grind when he served as premier during the last cohabitation. Mr. Mitterrand handily defeated Mr. Chirac in the 1988 presidential election to win a second seven-year term.

As front-runner for the 1995 presidential race, Mr. Chirac does not want history to repeat itself.

Others see the premiership as a springboard to the presidency and are fighting for it.

Serb-Croatian clashes escalate in Krajina

ZAGREB (R) — Fighting between Serbs and Croats escalated Monday in the Serb-occupied enclave of Krajina after a weekend lull following a Croatian army push.

Rebel Serb authorities in Krajina's main city Knin accused Croatia of attacking along the enclave's southwestern front, 11 days after its forces swept across a U.N. ceasefire line.

But Croatian security sources attributed the fighting to a Serb counter-attack mounted with volunteer reinforcements from Serbia proper, the dominant republic of rump Yugoslavia.

Relative calm was reported in the western region near the Croatian port of Zadar, where the Croatian thrust to retake a strategic land route was launched, and around the Peruca Dam to the southeast of Knin.

An emergency operation is under way to drain Peruca's reservoir after charges planted by retreating Serbs ruptured the barrage in several places.

U.N. peacekeeping forces reported Serb military activity near Benkovac, a rebel bastion now within range of Croatian guns, but had no knowledge of the reported Croatian thrust.

The army command of the rebel "Republic of Serbian Krajina" said an all-out offensive had begun around dawn in an arc from Obrovac in the north to the coast near Skradin in the south.

Police in Zadar, which faces Knin across a U.N. buffer zone breached by Zagreb's troops on Jan. 22, reported heavy artillery duels and unspecified other fighting to the east.

Phnom Penh launches offensive against Khmer Rouge positions

PHNOM PENH (R) — The Phnom Penh government army has launched what appears to be a coordinated offensive against Khmer Rouge guerrilla positions in several provinces of Cambodia, the U.N. peacekeeping operation said Monday.

The fighting, which flared up in the past 72 hours, was the most serious since the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in March last year, Eric Berman, spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) told a news briefing in Phnom Penh.

Latest reports said government troops were continuing a gradual movement towards the Khmer Rouge headquarters of Pailin near the Thai border and were within about 20 kilometres of the town, Mr. Berman said.

"It would seem as if they are trying to expand territory," UN-TAC military spokesman Colonel Dick Palk said. "It would be fair to say that it's all occurring in Kompong Thom."

Casualty reports were sketchy but initial indications suggested they had been slight, he said.

Mr. Berman said that in some incidents the size of the units involved was small, not even platoon strength in some small villages. It is not always that there is a clash. Sometimes they have retaken something and they have not met any resistance."

He said most reports of artillery exchanges had spoken of less than 10 shells being fired in each incident.

"These are not pitched battles going on in most of the country," he said.

Villagers had to flee the fighting in Siem Reap province, and there were reports from Battambang.

"It is a significant (government)

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mercenary arrested on return to France

PARIS (R) — Veteran French mercenary leader Bob Denard was immediately detained by police Monday on his return to France from self-imposed exile in South Africa, officials said. Mr. Denard was held in connection with his role in an attempt to topple the Benin government in 1977 and also for alleged involvement in the 1989 assassination of Comoros Islands President Ahmad Abdallah. A police car was awaiting at the foot of the plane as the 63-year-old Denard disembarked from a flight from Johannesburg to whisk him away for presentation before a magistrate. The magistrate was to decide whether to jail Mr. Denard pending trial or release him on bail. Judicial sources said last week it was likely that Mr. Denard would be held because of the gravity of the charges.

Cosmonauts return after 6 month mission

MOSCOW (R) — Two Russian cosmonauts returned safely to Earth Monday after a six-month mission to prolong the life of the Mir space station. The Soyuz TM spaceship carrying Anatoly Solovyov and Sergei Avdeyev was borne by parachutes to its touchdown in the former Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan minutes after re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. ITAR-TASS News Agency said the cosmonauts were in good spirits when they emerged from the capsule. Solovyov and Avdeyev carried out four spacewalks during their 189-day flight, fitting new equipment and modernising the Mir orbital space station. Mir was launched in 1986 as the centrepiece of the Soviet space programme. It has since been manned almost constantly by a succession of 13 crews, ferried to the station by Soyuz ships. Mir's intended lifespan would normally now be coming to an end. But Moscow space experts, their budgets drastically cut since the fall of a Communist regime that viewed space as a priority prestige project, hope the station can be kept in use until well into 1996.

One killed in Bangladesh elections

DHAKA (R) — Municipal elections in Bangladesh supposed to have been held on a non-partisan basis prompted clashes that killed one person and injured 100, officials said Sunday. More than 2.5 million urban voters cast their ballots in elections to 89 municipal corporations Saturday. Despite the supposed neutrality of the polls, major parties unofficially fielded their own candidates. Gunfire killed one man in the southeast town of Munshiganj, and 100 people were hurt in bomb blasts in the towns of Jessor and Magura, officials said. Three people were caught stuffing ballot boxes in favour of a candidate in Magura, an official said. Police used truncheons to disperse opposition supporters who smashed the car of Deputy Minister for Local Government Mohammad Abdul Hye, who was campaigning in Munshiganj in favour of a candidate.

"But they are hitting us harder than we are hitting them. This is a Serbian counter-offensive," a police spokesman said.

"They are trying to recuperate territory lost to us in the Benkovac-Obrovac region in the past 10 days."

On Sunday, Serb Krajina authorities in the Vance-Owen plan is far from assured, with the United States criticising it as unfair to the Muslims. The largest ethnic group, Muslims are set to receive a disproportionately small area of land.

Security Council support for the Vance-Owen plan is far from assured, with the United States criticising it as unfair to the Muslims. The largest ethnic group, Muslims are set to receive a disproportionately small area of land.

Bosnian peace prospects hung in the balance despite weeks of tortuous negotiations in Geneva between the three warring groups. Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said he would not join last-ditch talks at the United Nations.

Meditators Cyrus Vance, representing the U.N. and Lord Owen, representing the European Community, decided to refer the deadlock to the Security Council as a way of increasing pressure on Muslims and Serbs to accept a peace deal.

Only Bosnia's Croats have accepted a three-part plan drawn up by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen. Both Serbs and Muslims are baulking at military arrangements and the Muslim-led government is holding out strongly against a planned post-war division of the former Yugoslav Republic into 10 semi-autonomous regions.

They waved their hands and wept as they passed the first Croatian checkpoint beyond the neutral zone and entered the hill village above the Adriatic coastal resort town of Sibenik.

They were there to support the government of the day. That is part of the democratic system," Mr. Malan was quoted as saying in an interview with the Citizen newspaper.

Mr. Malan announced late Sunday he would retire from politics on March 1, giving up his post as minister of water affairs and forestry. He said he fully supported Mr. De Klerk's reforms to end apartheid.

There has been concern the military might move against Mr. De Klerk to preserve white minority rule, but the president appears to have the support of the majority of the armed forces.

The former defence minister and army chief was a bitter critic of the African National Congress (ANC). His departure is likely to ease Mr. De Klerk's plans for power sharing with the black majority.

Mr. Malan's departure is expected to lead to the retirement or removal of other hardliners in Kompong Thom.

The fighting comes as UNTAC is concluding registration of voters for national elections scheduled for May 23-25, but the spokesman said the reason and aim of the offensive remained unclear.

"It's really only happened over the weekend and a bit before that so what we have been doing is just assessing what's coming in," Col. Palk said.

The spokesman said there had been no reports that civilian or military personnel of the 22,000-strong UNTAC operation had been endangered.

The Phnom Penh government signed a formal end to more than 13 years civil war with three guerrilla factions including the Khmer Rouge in October 1991.

"These are not pitched battles going on in most of the country," he said.

Villagers had to flee the fighting in Siem Reap province, and there were reports from Battambang.

"It is a significant (government)



FRANCE'S SLAIN ENVOY: French paratroopers carry the coffin of French Ambassador Philippe Bernard who was killed when Zairean

troops went on a rampage in Kinshasa. Some 100 people were killed during the unrest (AFP photo)

the cabinet as Mr. De Klerk prepares to end white rule. Mr. De Klerk expects the country's first multi-racial election in early 1994.

Mr. De Klerk, who took power in 1989, inherited several hardliners from the previous government. Ex-President Botha has criticised Mr. De Klerk's reforms to end apartheid.

Mr. Malan, 63, was removed from the Defence Ministry by Mr. De Klerk in a July 1991 shakeup prompted by revelations of corruption in the government had secretly given money to the ANC's rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party.

In a statement late Sunday, Mr. Malan said he had planned for several months to leave politics in early 1993 and his retirement would be effective on March 1.

His announcement followed speculation that Mr. De Klerk planned to remove the last cabinet hardline holdovers in preparation for a transitional, multiracial government.

Meanwhile, Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer said Monday white minority rule will not end in South Africa with the installation of multi-party transitional councils expected later this year.

Responding to questions, he told a news conference: "The councils are not going to take over government as such in any way. They will make up a formal structure which government will not be able to ignore."

He said the councils would only

Philippine police crush kidnap gang

MANILA (R) — Philippine police in a gunbattle allegedly Red Scorpion Gang (RSG), blamed for the abduction of a U.S. businessman, a number of wealthy Filipinos, officials said.

There has been concern the military might move against Mr. De Klerk to preserve white minority rule, but the president appears to have the support of the majority of the armed forces.

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through on what he has said he wants to do."

And another Democrat, New York's Mario Cuomo, said: "I think something's happening in the first week that the president has not been given credit for."

"I think this has been an immensely effective week for him. It's written the other way, but the truth is two things are absolutely certain now: There will be a change in the ban on gays and lesbians in the military...Also, he stays on these peripheral issues, such as gays in the military, then I'm afraid he's going to bog down."

Iniana Gov. Evan Bayh, a Democrat, says he is "more hopeful" than he's ever been. Mr. Clinton, he said, must soon propose both short- and long-term economic stimulus packages and a deficit-reduction programme.

The nation's governors, attending a gathering of the National Governors' Association this week, were meeting with the president Monday to discuss policy issues.

Mr. Clinton, the former governor of Arkansas, called on state executives to join him in a problem-solving partnership.

"I will try to be a good partner and I hope you will be mine as we get this country to face its problems and seize its promise," Mr. Clinton told the governors Sunday at his first formal White House dinner.

Governors are prepared to form a partnership with Mr. Clinton, said Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, who briefly challenged Mr. Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination last year.

Mr. Wilder said he was confident that Mr. Clinton will "follow

for health insurance for both employers and employees."

Meanwhile, Bob Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the U.S. Senate, said that his party colleagues plan to force President Clinton to pay the political price for pressing to end a ban on homosexuals in the military.

Sen. Dole said Senate Republicans would meet Monday or Tuesday to discuss strategy and probably prepare legislation that would turn the Defense Department's ban on gays into law.

Appearing on the NBC News programme Meet The Press, Sen. Dole said the Republican strategy would probably be to add an amendment on the ban to legislation providing family and medical leave — the first bill that Mr. Clinton had hoped to sign into law.

Former President George Bush vetoed similar family leave legislation last year.